

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00  
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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
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PASS: USDA FOR WITCHER AND FRASER, FAS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAGR OECD  
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE MEETING,  
MARCH 16-18, 1977

REFS: (A) STATE 055700. (B) STATE 055985. (C)  
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1. SUMMARY. AGENDA, INCLUDING DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE  
COMM MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ADOPTED. INCUM-  
BENTS CONTINUED IN OFFICE. ANNUAL REVIEW OF AGR  
POLICIES AND SELECTED COUNTRY NOTES, AGR(77)2 AND 3,  
TO BE RECOMMENDED FOR DERESTRICTION PENDING RESOLUTION  
OF BELGIAN OBJECTIONS. DANISH DEL E. MORTENSEN, WHO  
IS CHAIRMAN OF FAO COMM ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY,  
PRESENTED CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF STATEMENT OF GROUP OF  
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77 TO BE REVIEWED BY HIS COMM IN MAY. LENGTHY DIS-  
CUSSION ON POSSIBLE COMM MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL  
RESULTED IN CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF SUCH A MEETING,  
OCTOBER 6-7. ONLY ITALY (WHICH HAS NOT SUBSTANTIVELY  
PARTICIPATED IN COMMITTEE'S WORK FOR YEARS) OBJECTED.  
SECRETARIAT INVITED DEL'S TO SUPPORT TWO SMALL AD HOC  
GROUPS OF EXPERTS FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES TO CONSIDER

THE GRAIN AND LIVESTOCK ECONOMIES RESPECTIVELY OF EASTERN EUROPE AND THE USSR. COMM RECEIVED VARIOUS REPORTS (PAR 8-10). IT PROPOSED MAIZE SEED SCHEME TO COUNCIL AND ENDORSED AMDTS TO SEED SCHEMES (AFTER CIRCULATION TO DEL'S, THESE WILL GO TO COUNCIL FOR ADOPTION). COMM CONDITIONALLY APPROVED ADMISSION OF GERMAN DEM. REP. TO SEED SCHEMES FOR SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL. COMM. ENDORSED AMDT. TO TRACTOR SCHEME, AGR(76)30, POSTPONING ENDORSEMENT OF ANOTHER AMDT. CONTAINED IN 1ST REV. NEXT MEETING END OF JUNE. END OF SUMMARY.

2. ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES (EXCEPT ICELAND AND LUXEMBOURG), YUGOSLAVIA, EC, FAO AND GATT REPRESENTED. AGENDA (AGR/A(77)1 ADOPTED WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT (1) THE COUNCIL'S ASSIGNMENT TO THE COMMITTEE TO REPORT CONCLUSIONS ON A COMMITTEE MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL (REFTEL C) AND (2) CERTIFICATION OF HERBAGE AND OIL SEED (AGR(77)22) WOULD ALSO BE TAKEN UP AND THAT (3) UNDER "OTHER BUSINESS" THE SECRETARIAT WOULD REPORT ON THE RECENT MEETING WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND ON THE STATUS OF THE COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROJECT. SECRETARIAT (SIMANTOV) SUGGESTED CONTINUATION OF INCUMBENTS IN OFFICE AND ELECTIONS AFTER SUMMER FOLLOWING THE RETIREMENT FROM SPANISH GOVERNMENT SERVICE OF CHAIRMAN R. ESTERUELAS. THIS WAS ACCEPTED WITH THE TACIT UNDERSTANDING THAT VICE CHAIRMEN G.O. FRASER (U.S.) AND A. DEBOUVERIE (BELGIUM) WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIMILARLY CONTINUE IN OFFICE. THEREUPON ESTERUELAS TOOK CHAIR.

3. ANNUAL REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND SELECTED COUNTRY NOTES, (AGR(77)2 AND 3) WERE SPECIFICALLY AND GENERICALLY DISCUSSED. (GENERICALLY MEANS AS THE FIRST OF FUTURE ANNUAL REVIEWS OF THIS KIND.) CONSENSUS DEVELOPED, BASED ON CAREFULLY PREPARED GERMAN INTERVENTION, THAT THIS KIND OF REPORT SHOULD DEAL WITH FOOD POLICY (I.E., INTERACTION OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY WITH GENERAL ECONOMIC POLICY AND WITH MARKETING AND CONSUMER PROBLEMS) AND, IN THIS CONTEXT, THE "INTRODUCTION" TO AGR(77)2 WAS SPECIFICALLY ENDORSED. PROPOSITION OF SIMILAR FUTURE ANNUAL REVIEWS TACITLY ADOPTED. OVERWHELMING MAJORITY FAVORED DERESTRICTION AS A COMMITTEE REPORT ASAP WITH SHORT ADDENDUM OR FOOTNOTES ON MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. IN LIGHT OF BELGIAN (DEBOUVERIE'S) ATTEMPT

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TO REFER REPORT BACK TO WP NO. 1 FOR REWRITING, CHAIR  
GAVE BELGIAN DELEGATION ONE WEEK TO SUBMIT PROPOSED  
REVISIONS. IN CASE THESE WERE UNACCEPTABLE TO  
SECRETARIAT, THEY WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO WP NO. 1  
OFFICERS TO BE RESOLVED.

4. THE REPORT ON THE DISCUSSION BY WP NO. 1 LAST JULY  
OF THE STUDY OF TRENDS IN WORLD SUPPLY AND DEMAND  
OF MAJOR AGR. COMMODITIES (AGR(77)1) AND THE  
CONTINUED TIMELINESS OF THE ISSUES RAISED WERE NOTED.

5. SECRETARIAT (BAKER) SUMMARIZED ITS REVIEW OF  
VARIOUS PROPOSALS FOR WORLD CEREAL STOCK LEVELS  
(AGR(77)6). DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS WERE (1)  
AUSTRALIAN (LILBURN'S) STATEMENT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT  
AIMS AT CONTINUITY OF SUPPLY - A SELLING POLICY OF  
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WHICH STOCK POLICY IS A PART AND THAT INTERNATIONALLY CONTROLLED STOCKS ARE NOT FEASIBLE; (2) GATT AGRICULTURE DIRECTOR LUCQ, SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF, DISCUSSED ABSENCE OF A PRICE POLICY OTHER THAN MARKET SUPPLY AND DEMAND IN PAST USG SUBMISSIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF STOCKS; (3) U.S. (HIRSCH) COMMENTING ON DEMAND ELASTICITY SECTION IN REPORT POINTED OUT THAT RELATIVE PRICE RIGIDITY IN THE EC HAS MINIMIZED MARKET RESPONSE TO SUPPLY VARIATIONS. ALSO UNDER THIS AGENDA ITEM, DANISH DEL E. MORTENSEN, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE FAO COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY, PRESENTED DETAILED AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF STATEMENT OF GROUP OF 77 TO BE REVIEWED BY HIS COMMITTEE IN MAY. PROPOSALS TO COMPENSATE LDC'S FOR LOW PRICES ARE BEING DISCUSSED AT UNCTAD. IN LIGHT OF POSTULATE THAT DC'S SHOULD INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION (PARTIALLY FOR AID) HE DEMANDED RECOGNITION OF MARKET CONSIDERATIONS AND OF THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF MARGINAL COST IN REACHING SUCH DECISIONS. HE CALLED RECOMMENDATIONS ON FERTILIZERS, IRRIGATION, ETC. NOT CONTROVERSIAL. REGARDING PROPOSALS ON INTERNATIONAL GRAINS ARRANGEMENT, VIEWS ON A "REALISTIC PRICE RANGE" DIFFERED. A TWO-TIER PRICE SYSTEM, IN HIS VIEW, WOULD BE TOO COMPLICATED. FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS COULD TAKE CARE OF LDC'S PROBLEMS WITH PRICES RECEIVED. DC'S WOULD RESIST TWO-TIER SYSTEM. COORDINATION OF NATIONAPA STOCK SYSTEMS COULD BE HANDLED UNDER IWA. INTERNATIONALLY MANAGED BUFFER STOCKS HAD NEVER BEEN SUPPORTED BY DC'S. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT FAO'S EARLY WARNING SYSTEM SHOULD BE EVALUATED IN LIGHT OF ITS OPERATION OVER MORE THAN ONE YEAR.

6. (A) POSSIBILITY OF A COMMITTEE MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL DISCUSSED FOR 5-1/2 HOURS ON MARCH 17, 1977. SIMANTOV REPORTED THAT COUNCIL (1) HAD NOTED SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PROPOSAL TO CONVENE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUCH A MEETING OCTOBER 6-7, HAD ALSO NOTED (2) AGENDA WHICH WOULD CENTER AROUND THE THEME "OUTLOOK FOR AGR. POLICIES AND AGR. MARKETS" AND HAD AGREED TO POSTPONE FINAL DECISION TO LET COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE PRESENT ITS CONCLUSIONS (SEE REFTEL C). SECGEN HAD DESIRED MEETING DURING FIRST CY SEMESTER. DUE TO CROWDED CALENDAR HE NOW PROPOSED EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE IN FALL. LATER DATE WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS WITH FAO CONFERENCE. AS OF NOW, DISCUSSION OF AGENDA WAS MOST IMPORTANT. THUS, HE PRESENTED THE THREE TOPICS

IN PAR 5 OF C(77)12, "MOVING TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE  
FOOD POLICY", "IMPROVING THE OPERATION OF INTER-  
NATIONAL MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES" AND  
"THE COHERENCE OF POLICIES AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL"  
(OR MORE CONCRETELY, "POLICIES VIS-A-VIS LDC'S").  
SECGEN WOULD SUBMIT SHORT PAPERS TO DEL'S FOR COMMENTS  
WHEN COMMITTEE MEETS IN JUNE. REGULAR ANNUAL MARKET  
OUTLOOK MEETING OF COMMITTEE LAST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER  
WOULD PRECEDE MINISTERS' MEETING. NO SPECTACULAR  
DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE BY MINISTERS. THEY MAY WISH  
TO PREPARE AND RELEASE STATEMENTS WITHOUT DELIVERING  
THEM ORALLY. CHAIR CALLED MINISTERS' MEETING  
4-1/2 YEARS AFTER LAST ONE URGENT FOR GUIDANCE OF  
COMMITTEE AND SECRETARIAT AND FOR INTEGRATION OF  
AGRICULTURE INTO OVERALL WORK.

(B) OF 23 COUNTRIES PRESENT, 12 (INCLUDING  
TURKEY, WHICH REMAINED SILENT BUT HAD SPOKEN IN  
COUNCIL (SEE REFTEL C)) FAVORED OCTOBER MEETING,

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AUSTRALIA EARLY NOVEMBER, FRANCE "NOT BEFORE DECEMBER"; JAPAN, DENMARK, U.S. INDICATED THEY WOULD GO ALONG WITH ANY CONSENSUS THAT WAS DEVELOPING; PORTUGAL REMAINED SILENT, UK DID NOT DISCUSS DATE, NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM FAVORED MID-JANUARY, IRELAND "NEXT YEAR". ITALY COULD NOT ACCEPT ANY DATE BEFORE "LATER IN 1978." SECGEN WILL ASK COUNCIL FOR FINAL DECISION.

(C) NO CONSENSUS WAS REACHED ON ORIENTING THE AGENDA TOWARD THE THREE TOPICS IN SUBPAR A ABOVE. THEREFORE, SPECIFIC AGENDA WOULD BE PROPOSED IN JUNE AFTER THE SECRETARIAT HAD CIRCULATED A FIRST DRAFT OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING DOCUMENTS IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT DISCUSSION.

7. EAST-WEST RELATIONS: SECRETARIAT (SIMANTOV AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JUCKES) SUMMARIZED AGR(77)11 AND SUGGESTED NEED FOR STUDYING EFFECT OF US-USSR GRAINS AGREEMENT, EFFECT OF STORAGE, EVOLUTION OF SOVIET POLICY ON PROTEIN FEEDS AND SYSTEMS OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION. IN LINE WITH C(77)29, ARNEX 1, PAR 1, 28 FEB 1977, SECRETARIAT ENVISAGES TWO SMALL GROUPS OF EXPERTS TO MEET IN SEMINARS AND TO REPORT BACK TO COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND XCSS. U.S. DEL PRESENTED RECOMMENDATIONS (REFTEL A) AND, REGARDING PROPOSED SEMINARS, IT OBSERVED THAT THESE WOULD UPDATE AND REFINE RESULTS OF A SIMILAR SEMINAR HELD TWO YEARS AGO FOR PREPARING "WORLD STUDY" BUT THIS TIME UNDERTAKING WAS PART OF A PROJECT IN WHICH MANY PARTS OF OECD WERE ENGAGED. SIMANTOV TENDED TO BELITTLE ASPECTS OF INTEGRATION OF AGRICULTURAL PHASE OF PROJECT WITH OTHER PHASES AND STRESSED HIS INTEREST IN SEMINARS. (NOTE: ACCORDING TO C(77)29, 28 FEB 1977, OF A TOTAL OF 94-101 PROFESSIONAL MAN-MONTHS TO BE APPLIED TO PROJECT ON EAST-WEST ECONOMIC RELATIONS ONLY 6-7-1/2 MONTHS ARE TO BE INPUTS OF THE AGRICULTURE DIRECTORATE.) SEVEN DEL'S DISCUSSED PROJECT IN POSITIVE TERMS BUT STATED THAT THEY COULD NOT COMMIT RESOURCES WITHOUT SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATIONS. THE DIRECTOR OF THE FAO/ECE OFFICE, GENEVA (STAMENKOVIC) CANDIDLY ANALYZED THE RESOURCES OF HIS OFFICE WITH A VIEW TOWARD POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OECD PROJECT: THEIR KNOWLEDGE WAS UNEVEN, THEY WERE KNOWLEDGEABLE ON MECHANIZATION AND AGRARIAN STRUCTURE BUT LESS WELL ORIENTED ON COMMODITIES. IT WAS ALSO EASIER TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THAN ON USSR. AUSTRIAN DEL (REDL) REFERRED TO WORK OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF APPLIED SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

IN VIENNA.

8. COMMITTEE ACCEPTED AND BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE  
REPORTS BY WP NO. 3 (DAIRY PRODUCTS), JANUARY 1977,  
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AGR(77)5, AND BY WP NO. 4 (MEAT), OCTOBER 1976  
(AGR(76)28). NEW ZEALAND DEL A. A. SHEPHERD IN  
HIS CAPACITY OF CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT WORKING PARTY  
REPORTED ON THE CONSULTATION ON MEASURES AFFECTING  
TRADE IN CERTAIN MEATS HELD BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND  
NEW ZEALAND, ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE U.S., CANADA,  
AND JAPAN, ON THE OTHER HAND, ON DEC. 8, 1976 AND  
REFERRED TO THE DOCUMENTATION OF THAT CONSULTATION  
AND OF SUBSEQUENT NOTIFICATIONS. (NOTE: THE  
SECRETARIAT HAD ALSO LAID ON THE TABLE A WORKING PAPER  
DATED 16 MARCH 1977 SHOWING THE TONNAGES OF MEAT  
SUBJECT TO THE U.S. MEAT IMPORT LAW WHICH MAY BE  
IMPORTED IN 1977 IN ACCORDANCE WITH VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT  
AGREEMENTS. THESE DATA WERE BASED ON INFORMATION  
SUBMITTED BY THIS MISSION.)

9. THE SYMPOSIUM "TOWARDS A MORE EFFICIENT BEEF  
CHAIN" HELD JAN. 10-13 AND THE SUMMARY REPORT,  
AGR(77)7, RECEIVED FAVORABLE COMMENTS BY SEVERAL  
DELEGATIONS. FRENCH DEL (LEGER) SINGLED OUT OECD  
CONSULTANT HAROLD BREIMYER OF THE U. OF MO. FOR HIGH  
PRAISE FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION. CHAIR REFERRED TO  
BELGIAN DEL A. DEBOUVERIE AS CHAIRMAN OF AD HOC GROUP  
IN CHARGE OF PROJECT, BECAUSE HE HAD CHAIRED ONE-  
DAY MEETING OF GROUP LAST YEAR ALTHOUGH UNDERSTANDING  
HAD BEEN THAT HE WAS SERVING PRO TEMPORE. GERMANY  
AND U.S. ASKED WHETHER DRAFT STUDY "TOWARD A MORE  
EFFICIENT BEEF CHAIN" (TO BE AVAILABLE END OF 1977)  
SHOULD NOT BE REVIEWED BY WP NO. 4 BUT AFTER  
SECRETARIAT'S RESPONSE CONSENSUS WAS THAT AD HOC GROUP  
SHOULD SEE PROJECT THROUGH TO COMPLETION.

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10. SECRETARIAT (D. ORMOND, TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICE) PRESENTED AGR(76)27 ON JOINT ACTIVITY ON DEVELOPMENT OF BEEF PRODUCTION AND MENTIONED OTHER COOPERATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS (MULTI-PURPOSE HYDRAULIC PROJECTS, FOREST PRODUCTS AND AFFORESTATION, RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS, AND INTERNATIONAL FACILITIES FOR ADVANCE TRAINING IN AGRICULTURE.

11. COMM PROPOSED THAT THE COUNCIL ADOPT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OECD SCHEME FOR THE VARIETAL CERTIFICATION OF MAIZE SEED MOVING IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE (AGR(76)13).

12. COMM ENDORSED AMENDMENTS TO THE OECD SCHEMES FOR CEREAL SEED (AGR(76)23, SUGAR BEET AND FODDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEET SEED (AGR(76)24), VEGETABLE SEED (AGR(76)25), AND SUBTERRANEAN CLOVER AND SIMILAR SPECIES (AGR(76)26) FOR SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL, PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT A DRAFTING AMENDMENT TO NO. 23 AND CORRECTION OF AN ERROR IN NO. 24 WOULD FIRST BE CIRCULATED TO DEL'S. COMM. ALSO AGREED TO ENDORSE AMENDMENTS TO THE OECD SCHEME FOR HERBAGE AND OIL SEED (AGR(76)22 BUT ONLY AFTER CIRCULATION TO DEL'S BECAUSE THE PROPOSAL TO AMENDMENT THIS SCHEME HAD ERRONEOUSLY BEEN OMITTED FROM DRAFT AGENDA.



13. COMM. AGREED TO PROPOSE TO COUNCIL THAT GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC BE ADMITTED TO SEED SCHEMES AFTER THE SECRETARIAT HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT ALL MEASURES NECESSARY TO COMPLY WITH OECD RULES HAD BEEN TAKEN.

14. COMM. AGREED TO PROPOSE TO COUNCIL AMENDMENT OF THE OECD TRACTOR CODES CONTAINED IN AGR(76)30, DEC. 1976. THE FURTHER AMENDMENT CONTAINED IN AGR(76)30 (1ST REV.) 16 FEB. 1977 WOULD BE RECONSIDERED.

15. COMM. NOTED SUMMARY RECORD OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES SCHEME MEETING IN LONDON, NOV. 22-23, 1976 (AGR/WP5/S(77)1). U.S. DEL (WITCHER) OBSERVED THAT THE PROPOSED STUDY ON THE INFLUENCE OF STANDARDIZATION ON THE MARKETING OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES WOULD BE A LONG, INVOLVED, AND EXPENSIVE UNDERTAKING.

16. CHAIR REPORTED ON THE OFFICERS' AND THE SECRETARIAT'S SPECIAL SESSION WITH THE LIAISON COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURAL QUESTIONS. SESSION WAS CHAIRED BY GERMAN AMBASSADOR E. EMMEL AND TOOK PLACE AT OECD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON FEB. 18, 1977.

17. SECRETARIAT REPORTED THAT COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROJECT IS NOT READY FOR RESUBMISSION TO COUNCIL BECAUSE GERMANY CAN'T PAY ITS CONTRIBUTION IN THE FORM OF A CHECK TO OECD BUT HAS OFFERED INSTEAD TO OFFER SERVICES IN EXCESS OF ITS REGULAR SHARE. LEGAL SERVICE HAS RULED THAT SECRETARIAT CANNOT SUBMIT SUCH A PROPOSAL TO COUNCIL. SIMANTOV TRAVELED TO BONN TO RESOLVE THE MATTER BUT HAS NOT SUCCEEDED. NEW APPROACHES TO PROBLEM MUST NOW BE FOUND.

18. NEXT MEETING OF COMM END OF JUNE.  
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## Message Attributes

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